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DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN AZERBAIDZHAN SSRBakinskiy Rabochiy
Baku, 18 Oct 1953

[The following presents information from a brief summary of the report by T. Yakubov, Secretary, Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Azerbaydzhan SSR, to the Ninth Plenum of the committee, in session on 13, 14 October 1953, pursuant to the decree of the September 1953 Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU "On Measures for the Further Development of Agriculture in the USSR."]

Due to the bountiful aid of party and state, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and MTS of the republic achieved considerable successes in the development of agriculture.

In 1952, delivery of cotton to the state was 95 percent greater than in 1940, grain, 1.8 times as great, vegetables, 23.2 percent greater, tobacco, 17 percent greater, fruits, 25 percent greater, and tea, 6.9 times as great. Procurement of animal products also increased.

There are now 99 MTS and specialized stations in the republic as compared with 60 in 1940. The number of tractors is now twice as great, combines, 3 times as great, hay mowers, 10 times as great, and ensilage cutters, 12 times as great. During the postwar years, the irrigated-land area in the republic increased by 68,000 hectares.

The serious shortcomings in the supervision of agriculture by party, state, and agricultural organs, cited in the decree of the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the report by N. S. Khrushchev, apply in great degree to the Azerbaydzhan SSR.

An intolerable situation exists in the animal-husbandry branch of agriculture. In spite of the growth of collectivized livestock herds which occurred in some kolkhozes, the number of cattle in the republic as a whole has declined below the prewar level.

As a result of misinterpretations of the party's policy in regard to the personal holdings of kolkhoz workers, there has also been a sharp decrease in the number of livestock personally owned by kolkhoz workers, employees, and other workers.

Party, state, and agricultural organs, in seeking to enlarge cattle herds in general, have failed to attend sufficiently to increasing the number of cows and buffalo cows, which in early 1953 made up only 22.7 percent of such herds.

Low milk yields prevail in kolkhozes of the republic, with an average for the last 3 years of only 309 kilograms of milk per foraging cow.

Development of the fodder base lags intolerably in the republic. In many kolkhozes and sovkhozes, little attention is paid to sowing of grasses and growing of fodder-root crops and ensilage crops. Care of annual and perennial grasses sown is so poor that many of them die out and the rest yield little hay. The growing of grass seed for sowing purposes is in a neglected state. Necessary attention is not paid to improving natural pastures and hay meadows.

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Poultry raising in the republic is also developing at a completely unsatisfactory rate. The mechanization of labor-consuming operations in animal husbandry is at an extremely low level and yearly plans for the construction of animal shelters remain unfulfilled.

Vegetable growing is a lagging branch of agriculture in the republic. The growing demands of the population for potatoes and vegetables cannot be fully satisfied. The workers of Baku are being very poorly supplied with these foods. In recent years, the areas planted to potatoes and vegetables has decreased. The check row planting method is little utilized. Development of vegetable growing is also being retarded by the lack of hotbeds in kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

The task of the next 2-3 years is to increase potato and vegetable production to a degree which will fully meet the demands of the population of Baku and other industrial centers of the republic as well as the demands of the canning industry.

With regard to further development of grain, cotton, tobacco, grape, and tea growing, the republic has achieved some positive results in the past. But in many kolkhozes, proper sowing and cultivating techniques are not observed, the struggle against agricultural pests is not organized, organic and mineral fertilizers are poorly utilized, and the grass field system of crop rotation is being introduced very slowly.

In recent years, the mechanization level has risen considerably in the republic. Nevertheless, there are still serious deficiencies in the activity of MTS; mechanization has hardly touched such branches of agriculture as animal husbandry, horticulture, sericulture, and viticulture. There is little mechanization in the growing of potatoes and vegetables. Tractors and machines are used unsatisfactorily and the repair and storage situation is poor. MTS lack qualified cadres.

Although there are more than 7,000 agricultural specialists with higher or secondary educations in the republic, very few agronomists, zootechnicians, machine operators, and other types of specialists work in kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and MTS. Of 1,346 kolkhoz chairmen, only 87 have higher education and only 148 have specialized secondary education. A great majority of MTS directors, MTS chief agronomists, and MTS chief engineers do not have higher education.

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